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*The Collapse of the Kingdom of Naples.* By H. REMSEN WHITEHOUSE. (New York: Bonnell, Silver and Co. 1900. Pp. 372.)

THIS is a work which should interest the general reader not less than the professed student of history. For while it is written in popular style,—occasionally, indeed, one might object to a too journalistic phrase,—it gives, for the first time in English, an excellent epitome of much diplomatic and political history. The decay and downfall of the Neapolitan Bourbons pointed one of the most solemn morals which this century has had unfolded to it, and the new generation needs to be reminded that internal corruption much oftener than external violence brings ruin to states. Mr. Whitehouse, after a brief survey of affairs in Naples down to the Revolution of 1848, tells the story of Bomba's reactionary government between 1850 and 1859, when year by year the growing prestige of Piedmont formed a growing menace to the very existence of the southern kingdom. He shows how Naples, not less than Piedmont, had a chance to take the lead, but through blindness threw it away; and then how, during the first year of the brief reign of Francis II., Naples might have become joint leader with Piedmont, but again threw away her opportunity, with the speedy collapse and extinction of that Bourbon house. Mr. Whitehouse draws well the picture of the irresolute Francis II., and of his incompetent advisers and the all-powerful Camarilla. The clearness with which he unravels many tangled diplomatic threads, gives his work even more distinction as a contribution to history. In 1860, Naples was the centre where the dynasty was trying to maintain itself, whilst Napoleon III. intrigued for a Muratist restoration, Cavour for the ascendancy of Italian Liberal principles, the Sicilians for Home Rule, the Garibaldians and Mazzinians for various shades of republicanism. To trace the interaction of these various conspiracies—for such, in truth, they were,—required an unusual historical gift.

Mr. Whitehouse sticks so honestly to his subject, that he does not allow even Garibaldi's expedition, so rich in romance and adventure, to lure him from it. He keeps the decadence of the Bourbons in the foreground, and treats all other events bearing on it as subsidiary. He would have done well to have included an account of the Camorra in his general survey of Bomba's government, for the Camorra was actually behind the police, the army, the judiciary, and the cabinet, and reached to the King himself. Only in New York City under Tammany and Platt has civic and criminal corruption been so perfectly organized as under the Neapolitan Bourbons. Mr. Whitehouse, however, has no desire to be sensational. Even of Bomba he can speak with evident fairness, and he does not fall into the common habit of describing the Neapolitan Liberals as all heroes and the other parties as all cowards or miscreants. If he had cited his authorities his work would have a better chance of gaining the immediate attention of readers who judge histories by their footnotes; but those readers who know the authorities will not need to be told that Mr. Whitehouse has used them to good purpose and has pro-

duced a work worthy of serious attention. We cannot excuse, however, the lack of an index.

W. R. T.

*Child Life in Colonial Days.* By ALICE MORSE EARLE. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1899. Pp. xxi, 418.)

OUR accomplished author has carried her studies of our early history into an interesting as well as instructive field. In her own attractive way she sets forth a mass of information gathered from the scattered records and memorials of child-life in the first two centuries of American and especially of New England experience. The book is mounted elegantly, and is amply illustrated in every pictorial detail.

The most interesting pictures are the so-called portraits of children. Labelled from two to thirteen years, they often put forth the adult expression of twenty to thirty years. Childhood by all canons properly consists in a beginning or even suggestion of knowledge and experience. On the contrary, these owlsh creatures have the look of a sawed-off shotgun. They seem to have begun life at the wrong end. Something of this is due to the conventional methods of local artists. But the processes of education and discipline revealed in these pages would indicate deeper reasons for introverted innocence in tender years. As might be expected, Copley's portraits are much the best, and they occasionally put forth a gleam of actual childhood.

A few boys' letters—among which John Quincy Adams's are excellent examples—reveal true life. Why do boys write better letters than young girls? The diaries are, as usual, meagre and frigid representations of the experience treated by the writers. There is one happy exception in the work of Anna Green Winslow, a maiden of twelve years in 1771. Her sensible aunt had prescribed that such misses "cant possibly do justice to nice Subjects in Divinity." The consequence of this sagacious advice was an actual account and picturesque expression of girlish life. In the miniature, her expression does not differ from others, except in dainty breeding. A face of twenty-eight years looks out from beneath an enormous head-dress or "notions" thus quaintly described (p. 59): "Aunt put it on and my new cap on it; she then took up her apron and measur'd me, and from the roots of my hair on my forehead to the top of my notions, I measur'd above an inch longer than I did downwards from the roots of my hair to the end of my chin."

Locke's political and social influence, though perceived, has not been appreciated sufficiently in rendering the life of New England. It would be interesting to trace out, wherein this sturdy rationalist served to rescue Puritan life from its own excesses, and to open the way toward a broader culture. Mrs. Earle found abundant evidence (p. 24) that his *Thoughts on Education* was "the most universally circulated and studied of all eighteenth-century books save the Bible" in New England. Her whole treatment of education and discipline, with the illustrations of horn-books, primers, stories and needle-work, is thoroughly interesting, and